

Alamogordo, NM – Today, Harry Teague reminded constituents that additional, common-sense rules will go into effect on Sunday, August 22nd

to help protect credit card holders and consumers from a wide range of unfair practices. The new regulations build on the previous successes of the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights, passed by Congress last year, which requires credit card companies to provide reliable, straightforward information enabling consumers to make smart, informed financial decisions.

“For too long, credit card companies took advantage of hardworking consumers with misleading, predatory practices. That’s why I stood up for New Mexicans and said ‘Enough is Enough’ to the credit card companies,” said Harry Teague, a cosponsor of the Credit Cardholders’ Bill of Rights. “The new regulations going in to effect tomorrow will ensure that consumers are not beholden to outrageous late fees and inflated interest rates. In a time when our country is looking to grow its economy, it’s crucial that New Mexicans’ hard earned dollars are going to local businesses, and not in the pockets of big bankers and credit card companies.”

Beginning tomorrow, regulations to save money and reduce fees will go in to effect mandating that the penalty fees imposed for things such as late payments to be reasonable and proportional. In addition, credit card companies, if they raise your interest rate, will be required to re-evaluate that rate increase every 6 months and, if appropriate, reduce that rate within 45 days after completing the evaluation.

A recent analysis by USA Today concluded that the new credit card protections, along with debit-card overdraft reforms recently instituted by the Federal Reserve, will save U.S. consumers at least \$5 billion in fees this year alone.

For more detailed information on the new consumer protections for credit card users, visit [The Federal Reserve’s Consumer Information website](#)

Congressman Teague has continually voiced his opposition to deceptive credit practices, beginning with a [letter to the major credit card companies](#) calling for a freeze on interest rate hikes. After learning from constituents about unfair new penalty and rate policies, Congressman Teague again stood up

for consumer

s

by joining his colleagues in

[sending a letter calling for a reversal of Wells Fargo's rate increase](#)

followed by a

[letter to Bank of America and Citigroup](#)

admonishing their fees on responsible customers.

###